

How the Single Point of Entry Program Helped Consumers Live in the Community

"Emma's" living arrangement preference was the nursing home where she resided; however, when a Level of Care Determination was done in the summer of 2008 by a *Southwest Michigan Long Term Care Connection* Options Counselor, she did not meet eligibility for Medicaid to pay for her stay. "Emma's" second preference was to move back to the apartment building where she had resided for 18 years. "Emma" successfully transitioned to this subsidized apartment, and has lived there for the past seven months, during which time her Options Counselor maintained contact. Throughout the 17 contacts with "Emma", the Options Counselor provided options and assisted with meeting identified needs or made follow up phone calls. Options discussed and explored included insurances for premium payment and copayments, homemaker and chore services, assistance with financial management, companionship, borrowing equipment for a temporary physical need, and medication set up options. A planning Level of Care was completed twice over the time period, and both times Emma did not meet criteria.

Potential savings to Medicaid through Nursing Facility Transition \$33,180.00

Update to the Story: Opportunity and Savings Lost

A follow up phone call with Emma's friend and durable power of attorney occurred less than one week after the SPE was eliminated. When the Emma's friend learned the SPE would no longer be completing Level of Care Determinations for nursing facilities she asked "Does this mean Emma will be able to move into the nursing facility now?"

Despite Emma successfully living within the community for seven months without the need for financial assistance by the state of Michigan, her durable power of attorney has started making plans for her to return to the nursing facility. Without an unbiased completion of the functional needs of consumers these situations will continue to occur denying consumers the ability to remain in the community and cost the state untold millions of dollars.